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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

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Summary

The Commission in its resolution 67/4 requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Centre, including the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization.

The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan for 2013 an evaluation of the activities listed in paragraph 4 of the resolution and the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission for the development of disaster information management, and to submit the results of that evaluation to the Commission at its seventieth session. In this regard, the secretariat was requested by the Government of the Islamic of Republic of Iran to postpone the evaluation of the centre until the end of 2014.

The Commission may wish to consider the information contained in the present report and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

1. The Commission in its resolution 67/4 requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management, including the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization. In this regard, the secretariat has made the following progress:

(a) Facilitating the organization by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, of a side-event on disaster information management on 24 October 2012 during the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia;

(b) Providing the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with technical assistance in support of developing the programme of work of the centre;

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(c) Establishing an advisory group comprising eminent experts in the region to provide the Executive Secretary with technical advice for implementing the resolution. The advisory group met with key officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission to outline the strategies for the implementation of the programme of work of the centre;

(d) Holding two subregional expert group meetings, in North and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 26-27 February 2014) and South and South-West Asia (New Delhi, 16-17 April 2014), to discuss the programme of work of the centre with representatives of vulnerable ESCAP member countries.

2. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan for 2013 an evaluation of the activities under paragraph 4 of the resolution and the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission, and submit the results of that evaluation to the Commission at its seventieth session.

3. In this regard, the secretariat has included in its evaluation plan for 2013 the evaluation requested in paragraph 5 of resolution 67/4 and has formed an evaluation reference group to oversee the implementation of the evaluation in accordance with the resolution and the evaluation norms and standards contained in the ESCAP monitoring and evaluation system.

4. Also in this regard, the secretariat received a request from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran via a note verbale dated 12 November 2013 to postpone the evaluation of the centre for one year, until the end of 2014, to allow the convening of subregional and regional meetings on disaster information management which are critical for the operationalization of the centre.

5. In this regard, the Commission may wish to request the secretariat to reschedule the evaluation for the end of 2014 and submit the results of the evaluation to the Commission at its seventy-first session.